

1 Autologous stem cell transplantation in atypical mycosis fungoides with central nervous system involvement: a follow-up


2 The clinical case

3 Treatment

4 Images before and after stem cell transplantation

5 Cerebral recurrence

Autologous stem cell transplantation in atypical mycosis fungoides with central nervous system involvement: a follow-up



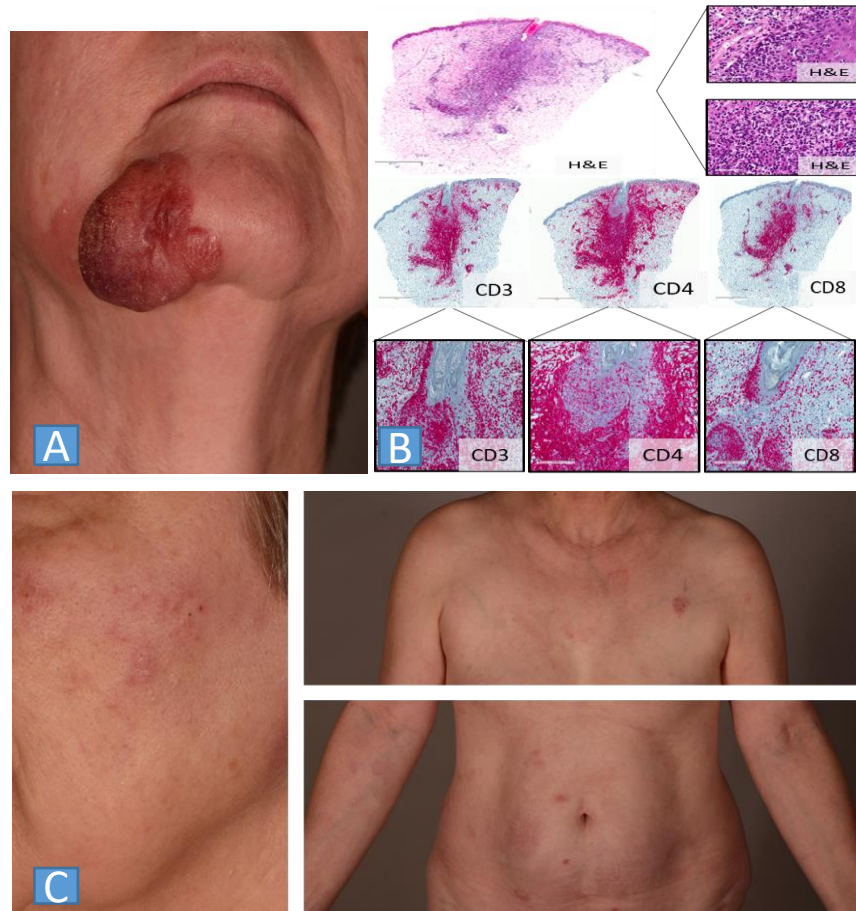
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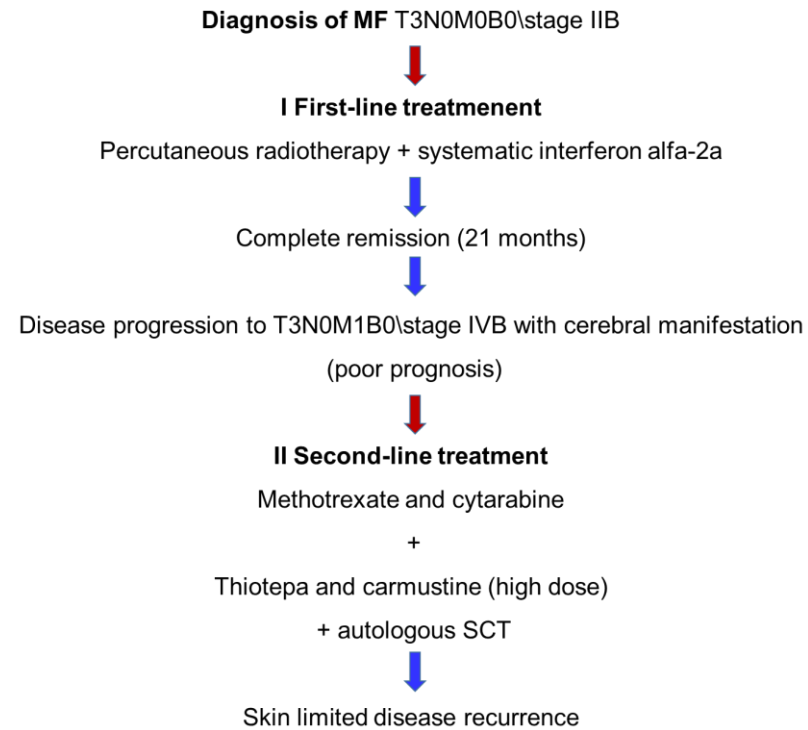
The clinical case



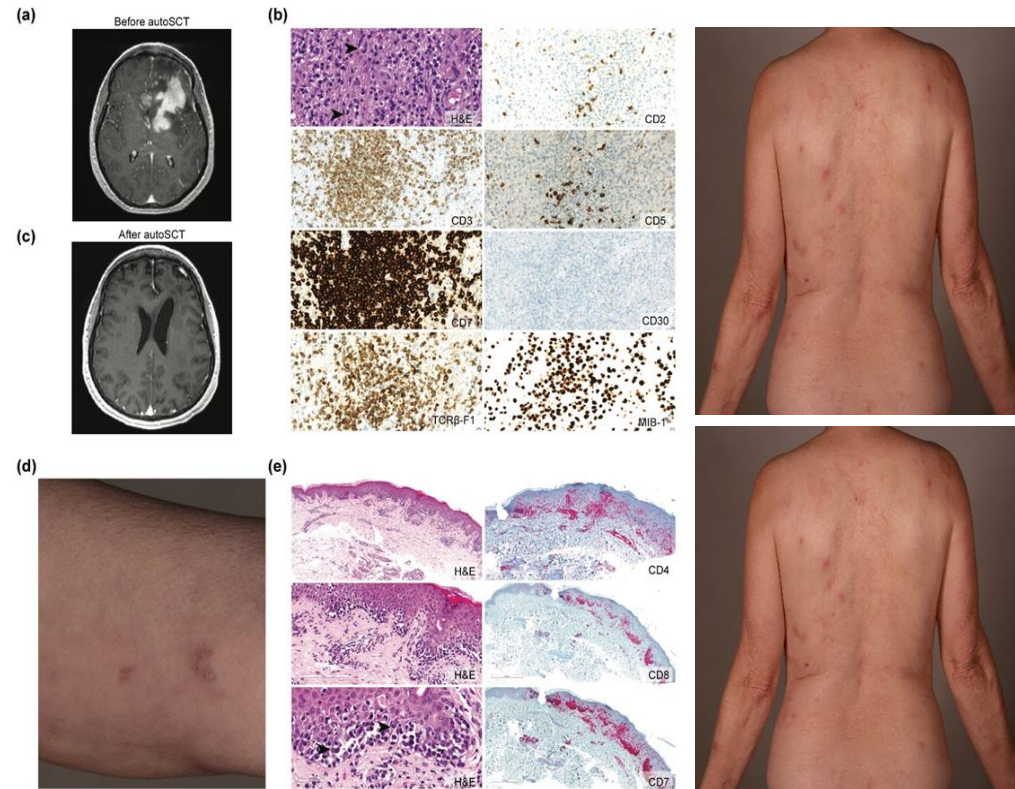
Initial Manifestation:

- A) Clinical appearance of the skin nodule in the right mandibular region.
- B) Folliculotropic mycosis fungoides (MF) with infiltration of a hair follicle by small-to-medium-sized lymphocytes without mucin deposition and some nuclear atypia (arrowheads) (haematoxylin and eosin, H&E; upper part of the image). Lymphocytes showed CD3 and predominantly CD8 positivity in the fraction of the folliculotropic lymphocytes (immunohistochemistry, lower part of image).
- C) Initial clinical manifestation of MF with multiple, disseminated erythematous patches, plaques and papules.

Treatment



Images before and after stem cell transplantation



A) Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) before autologous SCT of the brain with T2 hyperintense large lesion in the left frontal lobe with involvement of the corpus callosum and basal ganglia.

B) Stereotactic brain biopsy of the frontal lobe: H&E staining demonstrates diffuse infiltration of the CNS tissue by a small round blue cell neoplasm with increased mitotic activity (yellow arrowheads) and increased apoptosis. Immunoreactivity of the neoplastic cells for CD3, CD7, TCR-beta F1 and TIA1 (not shown). Partial antigen loss for CD2 and CD5; no immunoreactivity for CD30. Proliferation index (MIB-1) >95%.

C) MRI after autologous SCT of the brain shows complete remission of the brain metastasis in the left frontal lobe.

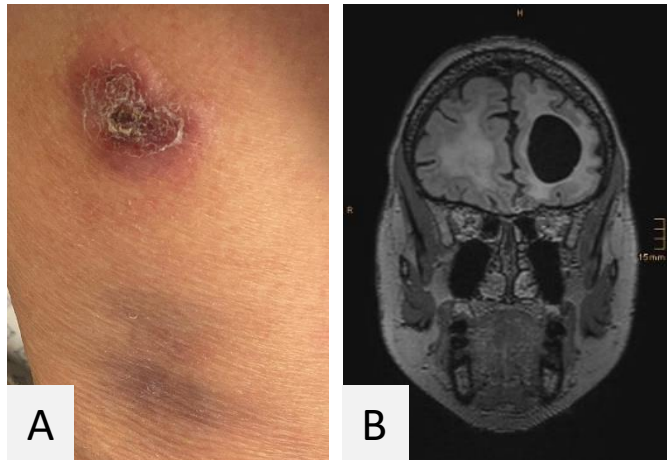
D) Clinical appearance of recurrent lesion after auto-SCT; erythematous patch on the left upper arm.

E) Skin biopsy of the recurrent lesion depicted in (D) with band-like infiltrate of lymphocytes within the superficial dermis and marked epidermotropism of atypical lymphocytes (black arrowheads). Lymphocytes showed predominantly CD8 positivity especially in the fraction of the epidermotropic lymphocytes (IHC, middle part of the image).

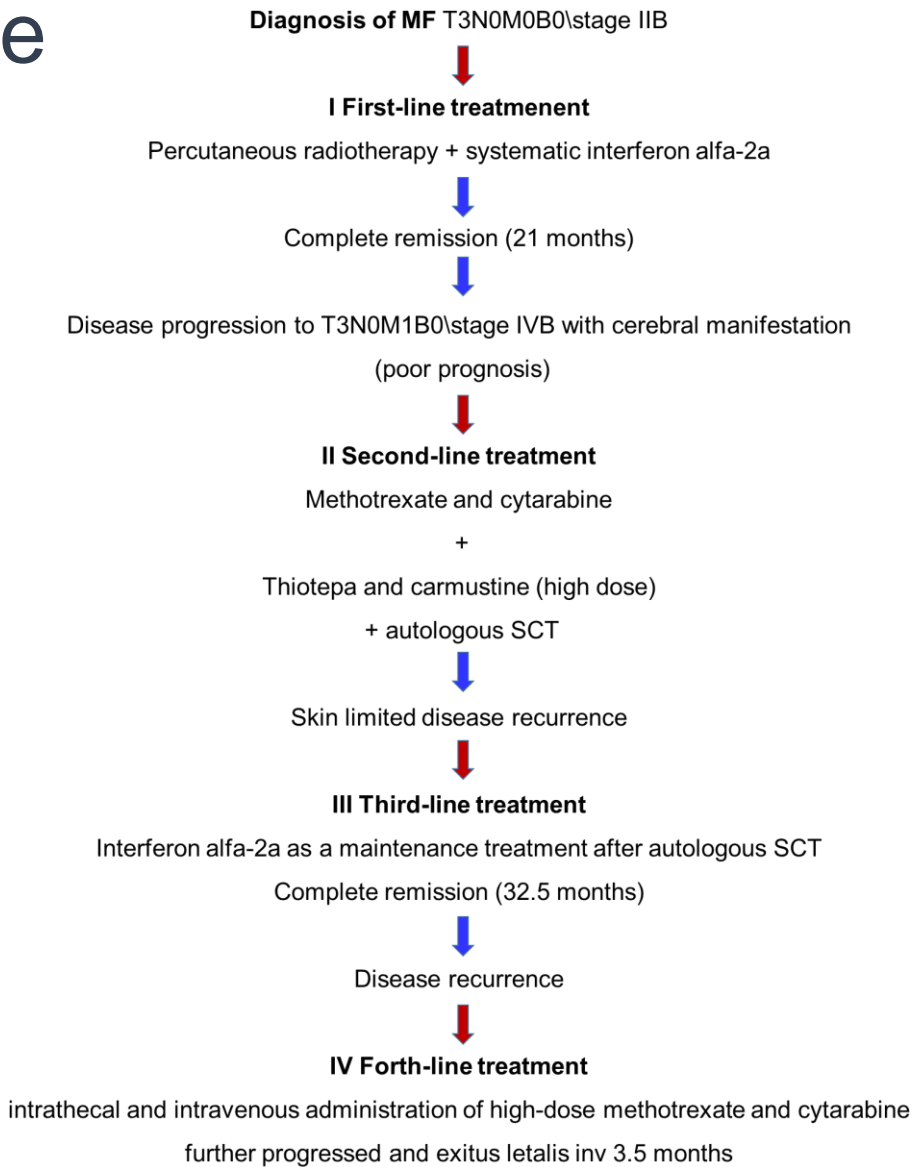
F) MF relapse after autoSCT.

G) Durable complete remission upon (IFN)-alfa-2a maintenance therapy.

Cerebral recurrence



Images upon cerebral recurrence: A) Skin tumor nodul B) cerebral MF lesion



Cerebral involvement in MF

- Patients with plaques and tumors have greater morbidity and mortality and many develop blood and lymph nodes involvement. Ultimately many patients die due to overwhelming infections, and some develop fatal metastatic disease.
- Central nervous system (CNS) involvement is very rare and associated symptoms are scattered with poorer prognosis.
- Patient exhibited neurologic deficits as MF progressed to the CNS. Symptoms included: general systemic abnormality, vestibular, cognitive, and ocular changes